

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
MICHAEL HARRIS

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of former Mayor of Pleasant Hill Michael Harris as he retires after more than 30 years of service to Contra Costa County.

Throughout his career, Michael has shown his steadfast commitment to bettering the lives of Contra Costans and improving our community. He began his career in public service with the Moraga Planning Commission, later going on to serve 4 years on the Moraga Town Council. When Michael moved to Pleasant Hill with his family, he used his skills to serve his new hometown. He was appointed to the Pleasant Hill Planning Commission in 1999 and was a key player in the creation of downtown Pleasant Hill. Thanks to Michael's leadership, the city has grown significantly, allowing businesses to thrive, and fostering a greater sense of community in Pleasant Hill. Michael also spearheaded the city's Community Service Day, allowing residents to unite in an effort to better the community.

Further, Michael has worked tirelessly to support our community's youth, establishing the Pleasant Hill Education Initiative to expand educational opportunities in the city and regularly volunteering at local schools. He also served on the Contra Costa County Managed Care Commission, managing the county's healthcare system and advocating for a reliable and effective healthcare system for all Contra Costans. Michael's work has had a profound impact on both Pleasant Hill and the county at large.

Outside of his work in government, Michael is also an esteemed optometrist and devoted educator. He serves as Clinical Professor Emeritus and Senior Lecturer Emeritus at the UC Berkeley School of Optometry. Michael has been a part of UC Berkeley's faculty for over 50 years, training thousands of optometrists and preparing them to enter the field. He has also authored over 200 scientific papers and published 4 books on this subject. Through his professional experience, Michael is able to offer a unique perspective and provide a clear vision of leadership for our community.

Please join me in congratulating Michael Harris on his well-deserved retirement after more than 3 decades of outstanding public service to Contra Costa.

RECOGNIZING TEMPLE BETH EL

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Temple Beth El, a religious organization in Bakersfield, as they celebrate their 75th anniversary.

Founded in 1947, Temple Beth El was created to help Central Valley residents embrace

a lifetime of Jewish fulfillment—through faith, culture, and community. That same year, they inaugurated their first Rabbi and installed a religious school for children. Since its founding, Temple Beth El has been an inclusive and welcoming space for people of all backgrounds to explore and maintain their spiritual and emotional connection to Judaism.

Temple Beth El is a place where all are welcomed—whether they were born Jewish or found Judaism later in life. The teachings provided can open the door to a lifetime of Jewish fulfillment and commitment. The members of Temple Beth El have dedicated their lives to promoting Jewish ideas and beliefs through education and community. In December 2007, Temple Beth El opened its Torah Learning Center, which offered 8 new classrooms to teach students about Judaism and Jewish heritage. In addition to its wide range of classes, the Temple Beth El Beginning Learning Center serves as a preschool and daycare for its members and their children.

For decades, Temple Beth El has played a vital role in the Jewish community throughout the Central Valley, particularly in Bakersfield. Through their religious services and education centers, they have created a safe environment for the Bakersfield Jewish community to come together.

I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Temple Beth El as it celebrates its 75-year anniversary.

COMMENDING JANNA LOPEZ FOR  
HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO  
THE COMMUNITY DURING THE  
HERMIT'S PEAK/CALF CANYON  
WILDFIRE

**HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Janna Lopez from Las Vegas, New Mexico. The Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire started on April 6, 2022, when a U.S. Forest Service prescribed burn got out of control. It burned 341,735 acres between April and late August in the southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains in San Miguel, Mora, and Taos counties. It was the largest wildfire in New Mexico history.

Janna immediately stepped up to help the residents of Mora and San Miguel Counties. In collaboration with the community, she rapidly set up a shelter where her team, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, provided food and shelter to hundreds of displaced residents for over 10 months.

Janna's commitment to serving others is inspiring. Her work to bring people and organizations together is the embodiment of community. Neighbors Helping Neighbors serves San Miguel, Mora, and Colfax counties and beyond. The team has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars directly and in kind to their neighbors. During the initial phases of the wildfire response, Janna also coordinated donations from local businesses, national relief organizations, and established a co-located

Disaster Relief Center with FEMA. Her passion for serving others has also led to her service as a Committee Chair for the Mora San Miguel Hermit's Peak Calf Canyon Long Term Recovery Group.

Janna is an exemplary model of how we can help one another as fellow citizens of this great Nation. We honor her and the countless New Mexicans, businesses, non-profits, and organizations who also donated their time, effort, and money to help New Mexico recover during this extremely difficult time. When President Biden visited New Mexico on June 11, 2022, he said, "We have a responsibility to help this state recover, to help the families who have been here for centuries in beautiful northern New Mexico villages who can't go home and whose livelihoods have been fundamentally changed."

Empowered by the work and stories of Janna and so many Nuevo Mexicanos, I introduced the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Assistance Act. Congress passed and President Biden signed into law this legislation and \$3.95 billion in relief to rightfully compensate the fire's survivors and help them recover. Uniting to work toward a common goal is what America represents. Help is finally here. The hardworking people in New Mexico and across the country have shown us what true community looks like. Janna is one of those community heroes. I thank her for her selflessness and dedication to service.

HONORING DR. SANDRA NIXON  
TYNES AS A DISTINGUISHED  
LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA  
FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Sandra Nixon Tynes, an educator and ordained Christian Evangelist, co-founded the Welcome Table Ministries along with her husband Deacon Carlton A. Tynes, a Korean War veteran and 30-year civil servant. They had a joint vision to establish a ministry dedicated to serving others. Although Deacon Tynes transitioned in December of 2019, Welcome Table Ministries continues its good work under co-founder Dr. Sandra Nixon Tynes with an ardent, unwavering mandate to serve the hopeless, the hungry, the homeless, and the helpless.

Since its inception, Welcome Table Ministries has served over 29,000 hot nutritious home-cooked meals and provided confidential counseling, free resumes, free tutoring in English language arts, special holiday treats/gifts, emergency groceries, and monetary crisis assistance. Dr. Tynes also provides assistance with religious services. Welcome Table Ministries has touched the lives of many in countless strives to fulfill its mission to "share the sweet love of Jesus Christ one hot meal and one act of kindness at a time." They have been doing so for over 23 years.

Dr. Tynes has been recognized by the City of Kissimmee with a proclamation for the ministry, service, and partnership with other community organizations in Osceola County.

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF FIVE NEW YORK FIRST RESPONDERS IN VALATIE, NEW YORK

**HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courageous and lifesaving actions of five first responders in Valatie, New York. Early on the morning of December 21, New York State Troopers Joseph Edinger and Nick Norton, Columbia County Sheriff Deputies Stephen Naegeli and Tyler Suchoski, and Valatie Fire Chief Joseph H. Loeffler entered a burning building in Valatie and rescued the three residents trapped inside along with two cats and a dog.

Despite the flames shooting out of the second floor and smoke pouring from the building, these five brave men risked their lives for those inside. For their selfless actions, the town of Valatie has recognized each of them with awards for their heroism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing the valiant actions of these five brave men and those who supported them. Their quick and courageous response on the morning of December 21 is a shining example of the selfless work our first responders do every day to protect our communities.

REMEMBERING ANN RAPSON

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Congresswoman BARBARA LEE to honor the life of Ann Rapson, an active member of the Piedmont community who recently passed away from advanced-stage brain cancer.

In addition to her professional achievements as an attorney with the Law Office of Louis J. Goodman, Ann served her community, as chairwoman of the Piedmont Park Commission and as a talented glockenspiel player for the Piedmont Community Marching Band.

Furthermore, Ann was an accomplished baker, winning the Alameda County Fair blue ribbon award for multiple pie contests over 15 years, most notably for her chocolate pecan pie.

Ann was also a local political organizer, where she volunteered for candidates whom she felt passionately would provide stable and steady leadership for her community. This has included candidates for district attorney, city council, mayor, and county judges.

In addition, Ann was active in the Jewish community as Vice President and active congregant of Temple Beth Abraham, an American Israel Public Affairs Committee lay leader, and a supporter of the Jewish Community Relations Council.

We're grateful for her leadership in the community and the legacy she created. Ann is survived by her loving family, including her husband David, daughters Pearl Mizrahi and Lilly Rapson, brother Louis Goodman, son-in-law Aron, mother-in-law Ellen Rapson, brother-in-

law Jeff Rapson, and granddaughters Grace and Lilah Mizrahi.

RECOGNIZING MS. SHELLY HINOJOSA AS THE WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. MATT GAETZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Shelly Hinojosa as the 2022–2023 Walton County Teacher of the Year. For nine years, Ms. Hinojosa has served the Walton County School District with exceptional passion and an unwavering commitment to serving others.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the best teachers in the Nation. Teaching is one of the most difficult yet rewarding professions in existence. Ms. Hinojosa has excelled in teaching her students, while also striving to be an active and supportive member of her community.

Ms. Hinojosa is revered by her principal and colleagues for her willingness to always lend a helping hand. From her fresh ideas and innovative problem-solving skills, her school and students have greatly benefitted from her hard work.

Her support and outreach extend far beyond the walls of her classroom through her involvement as Yearbook Sponsor, College & Career Advisor, School Improvement Team member and School Digital Contact Lead. Moreover, Ms. Hinojosa shows her students each and every day that it is okay to have fun and still demand excellence from yourself. I commend her steadfast willingness to serve those that matter most, the students and youth of our Nation.

For all her admirable contributions, I am truly proud to have Ms. Hinojosa as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Shelly Hinojosa for her accomplishments and her commitment to excellence, professionalism and innovation in the Walton County School District. I thank her for her service and wish her all the best for continued success.

HONORING DR. ANN Y. EASTMAN ELLISON TYLER AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Ann Y. Eastman Ellison Tyler retired from Calvert County, Maryland Public Schools and moved to Kissimmee, Florida in 1991. As a music educator, she was urged to teach again. Her love of music in Osceola County public schools and in the community was evident as she created and nurtured soloists, choruses, and pianists. She rarely turned anyone down when music was needed for weddings, wakes, and funerals—performing with compassion and strict professionalism, many times gratis.

Dr. Tyler hails from the Bronx. Education was the primary family goal. After finishing Manhattan's High School of Music and Art, she earned her bachelor's and master's in music education from Howard University in Washington, D.C., joining Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Dr. Tyler earned her degree in curriculum and instruction in 2002 from the University of Central Florida while teaching in Osceola County. She speaks her mind to students, parents, and the government to improve situations.

Several Osceola committee appointments included affirmative action, charter review, and housing. She is a life member and past president of the Osceola County Education Association—Retired. Dr. Tyler's life achievement awards have come from the Osceola County Branch 5121 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Caribbean and Floridian Association, and the City of Kissimmee. She believes in and supports funding student scholarships.

Dr. Tyler's curriculum has always included American patriotic lyrics, African American gospel and jazz, Asian, Hispanic, and Native American folk songs, and acting and dancing skits from Pre-K, special education, to high school, enjoyed by the children and many parents.

Dr. Tyler has acted in commercials and the Zora Neale Hurston PBS documentary. Since retirement, she authored two books, "Grandma Julia" and "The New Octogenarian: The First 180 Days."

At 84 with two grown sons and her faith, life is full.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GENERAL ALBEN "AL" HOPKINS

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 17, 2023*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of General Alben "Al" Norris Hopkins. Al, who passed away on February 12, 2023, was a giant who contributed to his community through his practice in law, military service, and business ventures. His life exemplified leadership, mentorship, and scholarship. He was also known as a man of integrity, work ethic, and faith.

Al was born in Ripley, Mississippi, on February 14, 1941. He grew up in Walnut, Mississippi where he also attended school, graduating from Walnut Center High School in 1959. In addition to being on the Honor Roll, an FFA Star Farmer, and achieving the rank of an Eagle Scout, he was a four-year varsity letterman in both basketball and baseball.

His scholarship included the obtaining of several degrees. He began his studies by attending Delta State University on an athletic scholarship, graduating in 1963 with a bachelor's degree in both English and history. Subsequently, he attended the University of Mississippi School of Law, where he completed his juris doctorate in 1965. In time, he would attend William Carey University, receiving his Bachelors of Biblical Studies. In 2010, he received an honorary Master of Laws degree